

(via Electronic Delivery)

July 28, 2010

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals, TW-A325
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Presentation
Schools and Libraries Universal Support Mechanism – CC Docket No. 02-6;
A National Broadband Plan for Our Future -- GN Docket No. 09-51.**

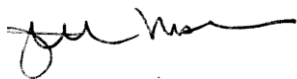
Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, July 27, 2010, I met with Carol Matthey, Deputy Director and Rebekah Goodheart, Associate Bureau Chief with the Wireline Competition Bureau to discuss proposed changes to the Schools and Libraries E-rate program and made the following points:

1. The Gates Foundation has invested in public libraries for over a decade in an effort to ensure that all people have access to technology. Our investments have included grants to support the replacement of computer workstations, improved connectivity, and training to increase participation in the E-rate program. The foundation's U.S. Libraries program is concerned with the sustainability of public access to technology at the public library and views E-rate as a critically important source of support.
2. The foundation is supportive of the FCC's efforts to streamline the application process as many smaller public library systems have limited capacity to complete the current E-rate application process successfully. Survey research funded by the foundation reveals that the administrative requirements of the application process are the most significant burden to using the E-rate program.
3. The foundation is supportive of the FCC's recommendation to make non-profit entities, such as higher education networks and municipal providers eligible for E-rate funds. Based on our experience in supporting public libraries in accessing greater bandwidth, many public library systems would benefit from a broader choice of providers.
4. The foundation would discourage the FCC from using E-rate funds to support off-premise connectivity. Although we support students and patrons having Internet access after hours, the ability to manage the use of this connectivity for

educational and other purposeful uses is tenuous. Other sources of Universal Service Funds are perhaps more appropriate for this objective.

Sincerely,



Jill Nishi
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cc: Carol Matthey
Rebekah Goodheart

